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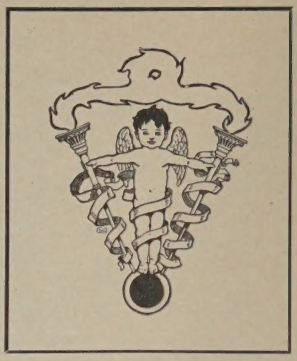

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THE CREATION

ORATORIO, composed 1795-98. Text selected from Genesis and from Paradise Lost by BARON VAN SWIETEN. Produced in Vienna, March 19, 1799, under the direction of HAYDN. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, February 16, 1819, in Boylston Hall; present performance the sixty-seventh.

The parts of Gabriel and Eve will be taken by the soprano singer; that of Uriel, by the tenor; those of Raphael and Adam, by the bass.

PART ONE

1

REPRESENTATION OF CHAOS

largo

2

RECITATIVE

Raphael: Uriel

CHORUS

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth: and the earth was without form and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters: and God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

3

AIR

Uriel

CHORUS

Now vanish before the holy beams the gloomy shades of ancient night: the first of days appears. Now chaos ends, and order fair prevails. Affrighted fled Hell's spirits black in throngs: down they sink in the deep abyss to endless night.

Despairing cursing rage attends their rapid fall. A new-created world springs up at God's command.

4

RECITATIVE

Raphael

And God made the firmament; and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. Now furious storms tempestuous rage: as chaff by the winds are impelled the clouds: by heaven's fire the sky is inflamed; and awful thunders are rolling on high. Now from the floods in steams ascend reviving showers of rain; the dreary wasteful hail; the light and flaky snow.

5

AIR

Gabriel

The marvellous work behold amazed the glorious hierarchy of heaven; and to the ethereal vaults resound the praise of God and of the second day.

6

RECITATIVE

Raphael

And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place; and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land earth; and the gathering of waters called he seas; and God saw that it was good.

7

AIR

Raphael

Rolling in foaming billows, uplifted roars the boisterous sea: mountains and rocks now emerge: their tops into the clouds ascend. Through the open plains, outstretching

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wide, in serpent error rivers flow. Softly purling glides on through silent vales the limpid brook.

8

RECITATIVE

Gabriel

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth; and it was so.

9

AIR

Gabriel

With verdure clad the fields appear, delightful to the ravished sense: by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight. Here fragrant herbs their odors shed: here shoots the healing plant: with copious fruit the expanded boughs are hung: in leafy arches twine the shady groves: o'er lofty hills majestic forests wave.

10

RECITATIVE

Uriel

And the heavenly host proclaimed the third day, praising God, and saying:

11

CHORUS

Awake the harp: the lyre awake: and let your joyful song resound. Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God: for he both heaven and earth has clothed in stately dress.

12

RECITATIVE

Uriel

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven, to divide the day from the night, and to give light upon the earth; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years. He made the stars also.

13

RECITATIVE

Uriel

In splendor bright is rising now the sun, and darts his rays; a joyful happy spouse, a giant proud and glad, to run his measured course. With softer beams and milder light steps on the silver moon through silent night: the space immense of the azure sky in numerous hosts of radiant orbs adorns. And the sons of God announced the fourth day in song divine, proclaiming thus his power.

14

CHORUS AND TRIO

Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael

The heavens are telling the glory of God: the wonder of his work displays the firmament.

To-day that is coming speaks it the day; the night that is gone, to following night. In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.

PART TWO

15

RECITATIVE

Gabriel

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

16

AIR

Gabriel

On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft, and cleaves the sky in swifter flight to the blazing sun. His welcome bids to morn the merry lark; and cooing calls the tender dove his mate. From every bush and grove resound the nightingale's delightful notes: no grief affected yet her breast, nor to a mournful tale were tuned her soft enchanting lays.

17

RECITATIVE AND AIR

Raphael

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth: and God blessed them, saying,

Be fruitful all, and multiply: ye winged tribes, be multiplied, and sing on every tree: multiply, ye finny tribes, and fill each watery deep: be fruitful: grow and multiply: and in your God and Lord rejoice.

18

RECITATIVE

Raphael

And the angels struck their immortal harps, and the wonders of the fifth day sang.

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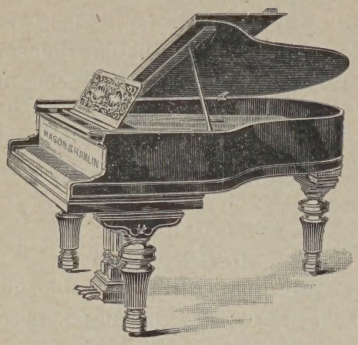

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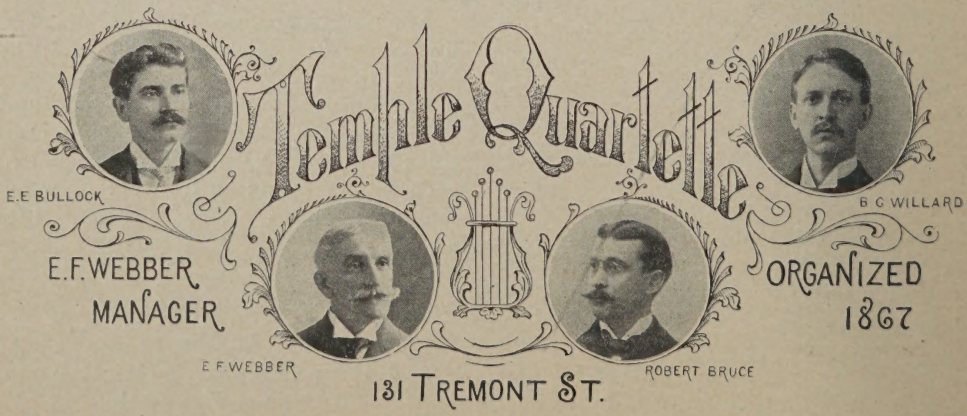

19

TRIO

Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael

Most beautiful appear, with verdure young adorned, the gently sloping hills: their narrow sinuous veins distil, in crystal drops, the fountain fresh and bright.

In lofty circles play, and hover in the air, the cheerful host of birds; and in the flying whirl their glittering plumes are dyed as rainbows by the sun.

See flashing through the wet, in thronged swarms, the fish, on thousand ways around: upheaved from the deep, the immense leviathan sports on the foaming waves.

How many are thy works, O God: who may their numbers tell?

20

TRIO AND CHORUS.

The Lord is great, and great his might: his glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

21

RECITATIVE

Raphael

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind; cattle and creeping thing, and beasts of the earth, after his kind.

22

RECITATIVE

Raphael

Straight opening her fertile womb, the earth obeyed the word, and teemed creatures numberless, in perfect forms and fully grown. Cheerful roaring stands the tawny lion: in sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears: the nimble stag bears up his branching head: with flying mane and fiery look impatient neighs the sprightly steed: the cattle in herds already seek their food on fields and meadows green: and o'er the ground, as plants, are spread the fleecy meek and bleating flocks. Unnumbered as the sands, in swarms arose the hosts of insects. In long dimension creeps with sinuous trace the worm.

23

AIR

Raphael

Now heaven in fullest glory shone: earth smiled in all her rich attire: the room of air with fowl is filled; the water swelled by shoals of fish: by heavy beasts the ground is trod. But all the work was not complete: there wanted yet that wondrous being, that grateful should God's power admire; with heart and voice his goodness praise.

24

RECITATIVE

Uriel

And God created man in his own image: in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

25

AIR

Uriel

In native worth and honor clad, with beauty, courage, strength adorned, erect, with front serene, he stands; a man, the lord and king of nature all. His large and arched brow sublime of wisdom deep declares the seat: and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul, the breath and image of his God. With fondness leans upon his breast the partner for him formed; a woman, fair and graceful spouse; her softly smiling virgin looks, of flowery spring the mirror, bespeak him love and joy and bliss.

26

RECITATIVE

Raphael

And God saw everything that he had made; and behold it was very good: and the heavenly choir in song divine thus closed the sixth day:

27

CHORUS AND TRIO

Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael

Achieved is the glorious work: the Lord beholds it and is pleased. In lofty strains let us rejoice: our song let be the praise of God.

On thee each living soul awaits: from thee, O Lord, all seek their food: thou openest thy hand, and fillest all with good.

But when thy face, O Lord, is hid, with sudden terror they are struck: thou tak'st their breath away: they vanish into dust.

Thou sendest forth thy breath again, and life with vigor fresh returns: revived earth unfolds new strength and new delights.

Achieved is the glorious work: our song let be the praise of God. Glory to his name forever! He sole on high exalted reigns. HALLELUJAH!

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PART THREE

28

INTRODUCTION

largo

RECITATIVE

Uriel

In rosy mantle appears, by music sweet awaked, the morning young and fair. From heaven's angelic choir pure harmony descends on ravished earth. Behold the blissful pair, where hand in hand they go: their glowing looks express the thanks that swell their grateful hearts. A louder praise of God their lips shall utter soon. Then let our voices ring, united with their song.

29

DUET AND CHORUS

Adam and Eve

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord, the heaven and earth are stored. This world so great, so wonderful, thy mighty hand has framed. Forever blessed be his power: his name be ever magnified.

Of stars the fairest, pledge of day, that crown'st the smiling morn; and thou, bright sun, that cheer'st the world, thou eye and soul of all; proclaim in your extended course the almighty power and praise of God.

And thou that rul'st the silent night, and all ye starry host, spread wide and everywhere spread wide his praise in choral songs about.

Ye mighty elements, by his power your ceaseless changes make. Ye dusky mists and dewy steams that rise and fall through the air,

Resound the praise of God, our Lord. Great his name and great his might.

Ye purling fountains, tune his praise; and wave your tops, ye pines. Ye plants exhale, ye flowers breathe, to him your balmy scent.

Ye that on mountains stately tread, and ye that lowly creep, ye birds that sing at heaven's gate, and ye that swim the stream,

Ye creatures all, extol the Lord: him celebrate: him magnify.

Ye valleys, hills and shady woods, made vocal by our song, from morn to eve you shall repeat our grateful hymns of praise. Hail, bounteous Lord! Almighty, hail! Thy word called forth this wondrous frame: the heavens and earth thy power adore: we praise thee now and evermore.

30

RECITATIVE

Adam and Eve

Our duty we have now performed, offering up to God our thanks. Now follow me, dear partner of my life: thy guide I 'll be: and every step pours new delights into our breasts, shows wonders everywhere. Then may'st thou feel and know the high degree of bliss the Lord allotted us, and with devoted heart his bounty celebrate. Come: follow me: thy guide I 'll be.

O thou, for whom I am, my help, my shield, my all, thy will is law to me: so God our Lord ordains; and from obedience grow my pride and happiness.

31

DUET

Adam and Eve

Graceful consort, at thy side softly fly the golden hours: every moment brings new rapture: every care is lulled to rest.

Spouse adored, at thy side purest joys o'erflow the heart: life and all I have is thine: my reward thy love shall be.

The dew-dropping morn, oh, how she quickens all.

The coolness of ev'n, oh, how she all restores.

How grateful is of fruits the savor sweet.

How pleasing is of fragrant bloom the smell.

But without thee what is to me the morning dew, the breath of ev'n, the savory fruit, the fragrant bloom? With thee is every joy enhanced: with thee delight is ever new: with thee is life incessant bliss: thine, thine, thine it all shall be.

32

RECITATIVE

Uriel

O happy pair, and happy still might be, if not, misled by false conceit, ye strive at more than granted is, and more desire to know than know ye should.

33

CHORUS AND QUARTET

Sing the Lord, ye voices all. Magnify his name through all creation. Celebrate his power and glory. Let his name resound on high. Jehovah's praise forever shall endure. Praise the Lord. Utter thanks. AMEN! AMEN!

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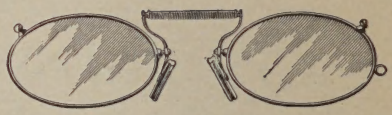

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